(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of gas connections targeted to be provided in the rural areas by the end of year 2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, LPG connections are released on demand throughout the country in existing markets. A target of release of 1.3 crores new LPG connections throughout the country including rural areas during the current calendar year has been fixed up by the Government. Further to increase the LPG distribution network, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up more than 1200 LPG distributorships exclusively in rural areas under various Marketing Plans.

Assistance from foreign company in exploration of oil and gas

2562. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether off shore oil and gas discovery has been made with the help of foreign private company in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of these oil and gas fields;

(c) by when these oil and gas fields will be developed for exploration; and

(d) what is the potential of these oil and gas fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Following oil and gas discoveries have been made by foreign private company, namely Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., as operator.

Type of discovery	Name of discovery	Name of block	Location	Date of discovery
Gas	Ravva Satellite Gas	Ravva Contract area	East Coast Offshore	May, 1999
Gas	Laxmi	CB-OS/2	Gulf of Cambay	May, 2000
Oil and Gas	Ambe	CB-OS/2	Gulf of Cambay	Nov., 2000
Oil and Gas	Gouri	CB-OS/2	Gulf of Cambay	Dec., 2000
Oil	Parvati	CB-OS/2	Gulf of Cambay	Jan., 2001
Gas	Annapurna	KG-DWN-98/2	East Coast Offshore	June, 2001

(c) and (d) Gas discoveries of Ravva Satellite field and Laxmi are under development. Ravva Satellite Gas development is expected to be completed by the end of 2001 and Laxmi Phase-I development is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2002. A plateau gas production rate of 0.9 MMSCMD for six years is expected from Ravva Satellite Gas. A plateau gas production rate of 2.4 MMSCMD for five years is exepcted from Laxmi field.

Oil and Gas discoveries of Ambe, Gouri, Parvati and Annapurna need to be appraised further for their potential and economic viability. Development plans for these discoveries will depend upon the result of appraisal.

Dealer Selection Boards in Karnataka

2563. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dealer Selection Boards formed in Karnataka to expedite the retail outlets, LPG connections and kerosene dealership;

(b) the number of new retail outlets, kerosene dealership and LPG distributorship allotted during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Karnataka; and

(c) the name of places where they are being allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Two Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs), *viz.*, DSB, Bangalore and DSB, Belgaum, have been constituted for the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) 26 retail outlet dealerships, 44 LPG distributorships and 4 SKO-LDO dealerships were allotted at various locations in the State of Karnataka in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (April to June, 2001).

Offer of French Company for Equity in Petronet LNG Ltd.

2564. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a French company has offered to invest 20 million dollar to pick up a 10 per cent equity in Petronet LNG Ltd., a consortium of India's leading public sector undertakings for development of liquified natural gas import and storage terminals;